Lovely Strange Dark

# CHIYOKO CHOCOLAT

## BY KUJIRA

## CHAPTER 6

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RECIPE 6

I'M GOING TO EAT THEM ALL.
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?

WHAAAT ?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU'RE GOING TO EAT THEM ALL? THAT'S WAY TOO MUCH!
bite
I'LL GET THROUGH THEM.
I WANT TO TAKE BACK THE LAST 20 YEARS
bite
THAT MY FATHER HAS BEEN GONE.

.....
WELL, BE SURE TO FINISH BEFORE THE STORE OPENS.

HEY,
SORRY FOR DISTURBING YOU WHILE YOU'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT,
BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING AFTER YOU EAT EACH ONE?
THE QUIZ.

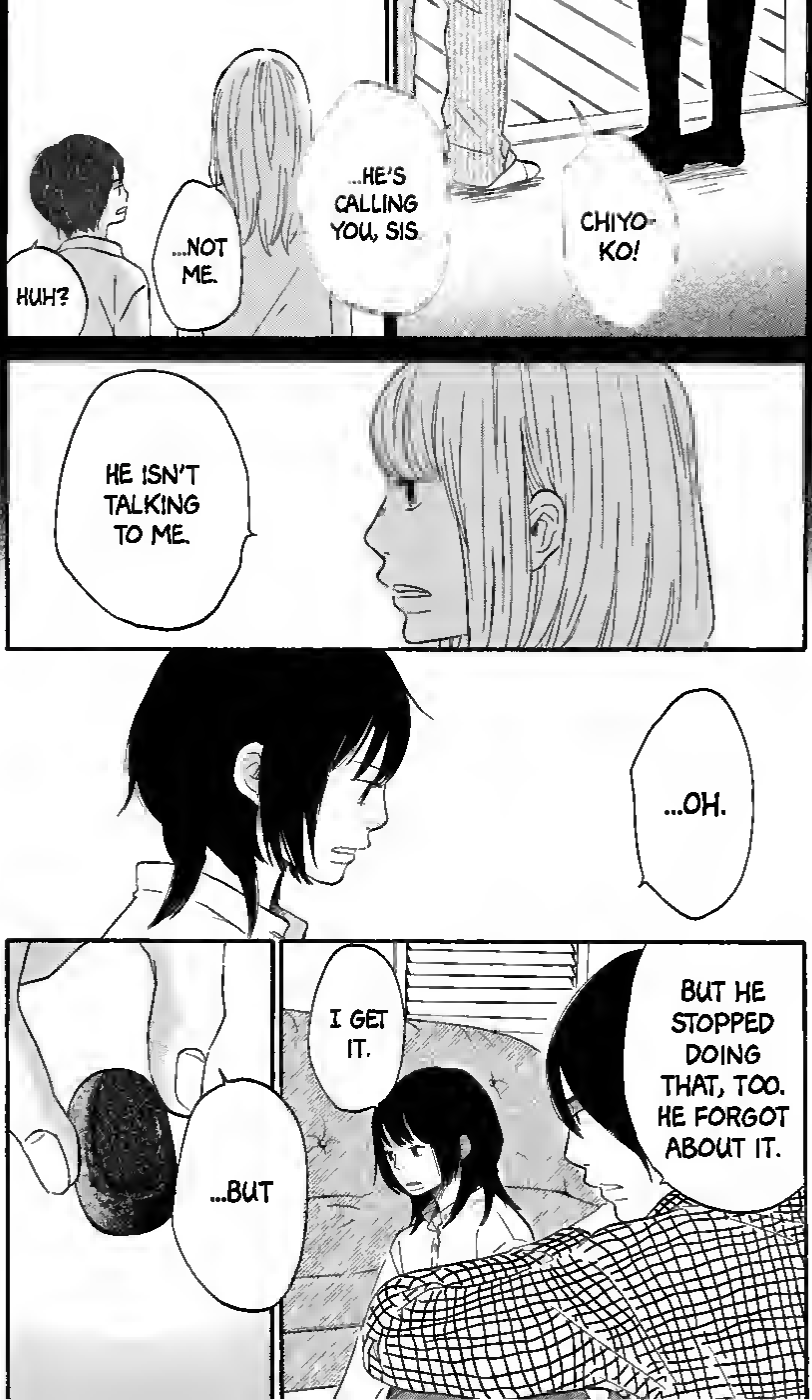
QUIZ?
...OUR SHOP'S CHOCOLATE
IS MADE BY BLENDING THREE DIFFERENT CHOCOLATES, RIGHT?
YEAH.
Right
THE MIXTURE ALSO CHANGES DEPENDING ON THE GANACHE.
CHI-YOKO.
CHI-YOKO.
WHAT'S IN THIS CHOCOLATE?
CAN I EAT IT?
YEAH, GO AHEAD.

VALRHONA 4,
WEISS 3,
AND CACAO
VALLEY 3.

TH-
THAT'S RIGHT!
YOU'RE AMAZING, CHIYOKO.
HOW DID YOU KNOW?!
HE ALWAYS
PLAYED GAMES LIKE THIS WITH ME.

OH! SO THAT'S WHY THOSE RECIPES ARE...
SOMETIMES I ALSO THOUGHT UP NEW IDEAS FOR MIXES.
AT FIVE YEARS OLD?!
...IT WAS FUN.
IT MADE ME HAPPY WHEN HE SAID I DID GOOD.
...NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT,
DAD DID THE SAME THING.
WHAT?
I ALWAYS WALKED AROUND THE KITCHEN
AND GOT SCOLDED BY MY MUM FOR DISTURBING HIM...

MITSU-
RU!!
CHI-
YOKO!
CHI-
YOKO!
WITH MY
SISTER.
COME OVER
HERE.
TRY
GUESSING WHICH
CHOCOLATE WAS
USED TO MAKE
THIS ONE.


HUH?
...NOT ME.
...HE'S CALLING YOU, SIS.
CHIYO-KO!
HE ISN'T TALKING TO ME.
...OH.
...BUT
I GET IT.
BUT HE STOPPED DOING THAT, TOO. HE FORGOT ABOUT IT.

I REMEMBER EVERYTHING.
...YEAH.
I REMEMBER MUM CLOSING OFF HER HEART.
I REMEMBER HIM LEAVING.
All of it.
All of it.
I'll melt it all inside of me.
Even if we only spent
five or six years as a family.
I won't forget
those happy days.
HM?

THE LIGHT'S ON.
... MINO-RU?
YOU THERE, MINORU?
MINO...
YES—
I FINISHED THEM ALL!

I REALLY DO
OH.
LOVE CHOCOLATE!
.....

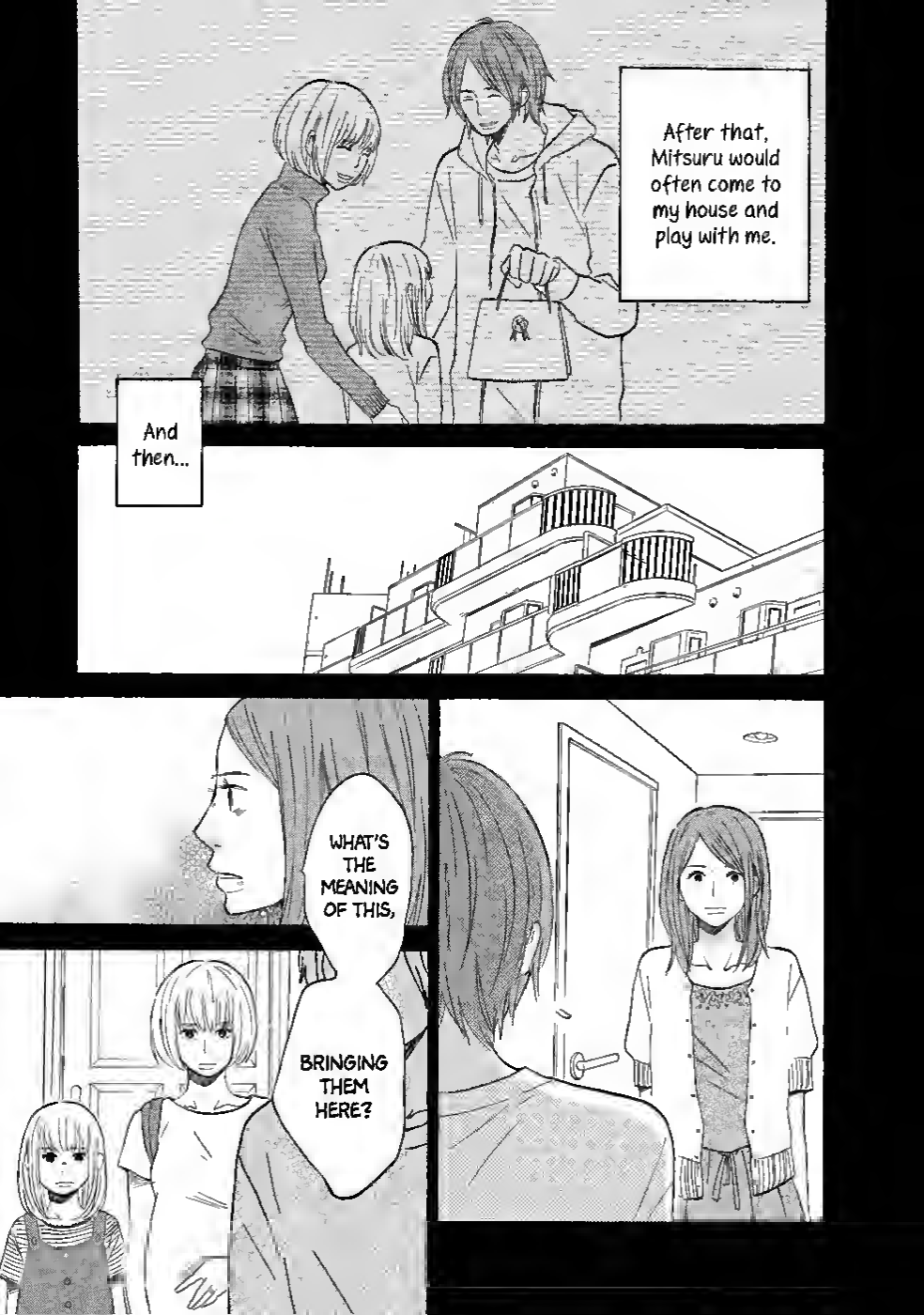
HMM?
S-SORRY FOR IMPOSING!
I FORCED MINORU TO—
JUMP
...SIS?
slide
MS. OKABA-YASHI?!
I'M SORRY.

HUH?
...MY MOTHER ...
SHE WAS THE ONE WHO BROKE APART YOUR FAMILY.
I'LL

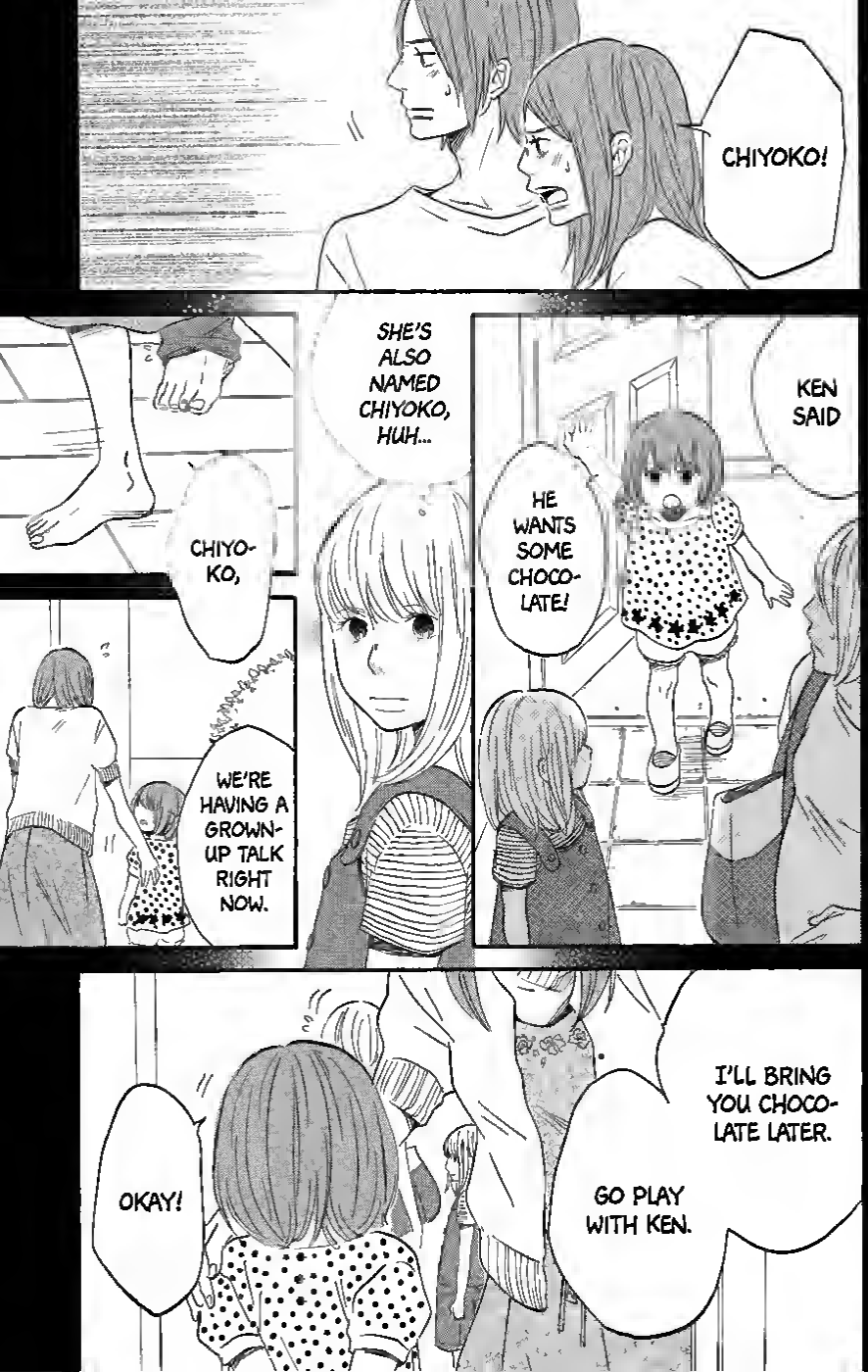
TELL YOU EVERYTHING!
IT ALL STARTED
AFTER MY FATHER DIED.

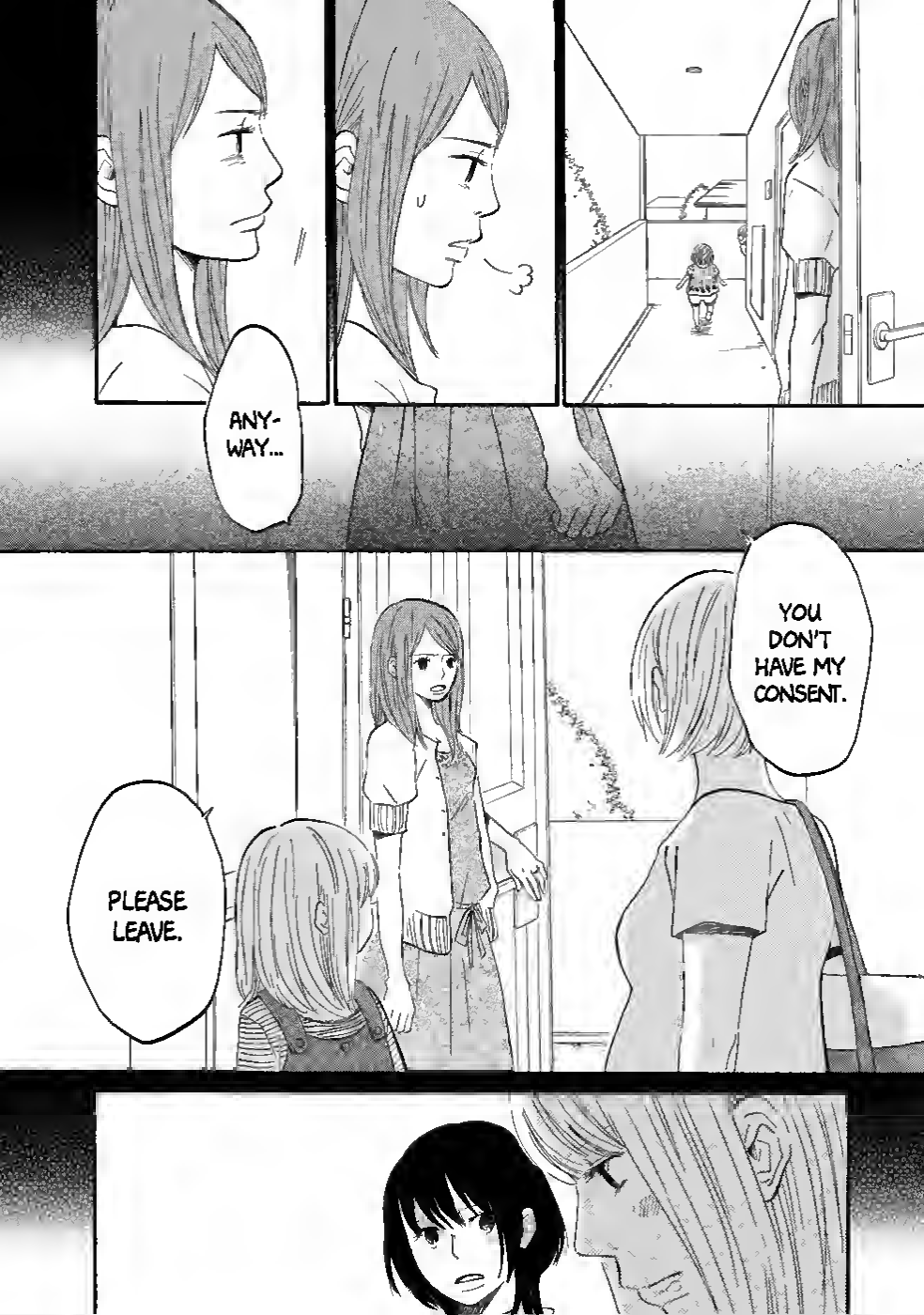
I WAS EIGHT YEARS OLD.
I HEARD HE WAS IN AN ACCIDENT DURING A BUSINESS TRIP.
AND HIS DAUGHTER IS STILL SO YOUNG, TOO. I FEEL SO BAD FOR THEM...
KUBOTA.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

THANK YOU FOR COMING.
I'M HERE IF YOU NEED ANYTHING.
HE SMELLS THE SAME AS DAD.
LIKE CHOCOLATE.

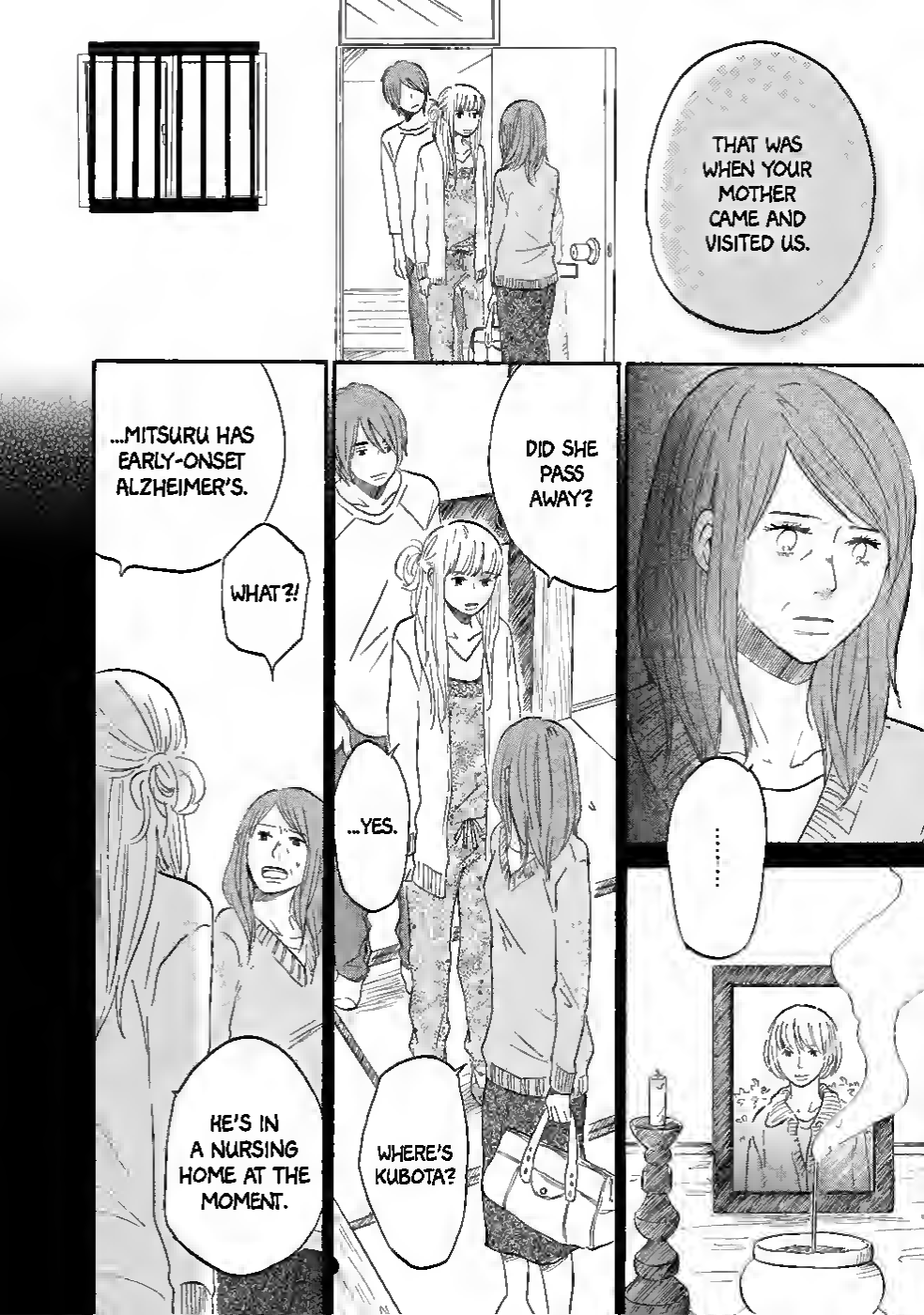

After that, Mitsuru would often come to my house and play with me.
And then...
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS,
BRINGING THEM HERE?

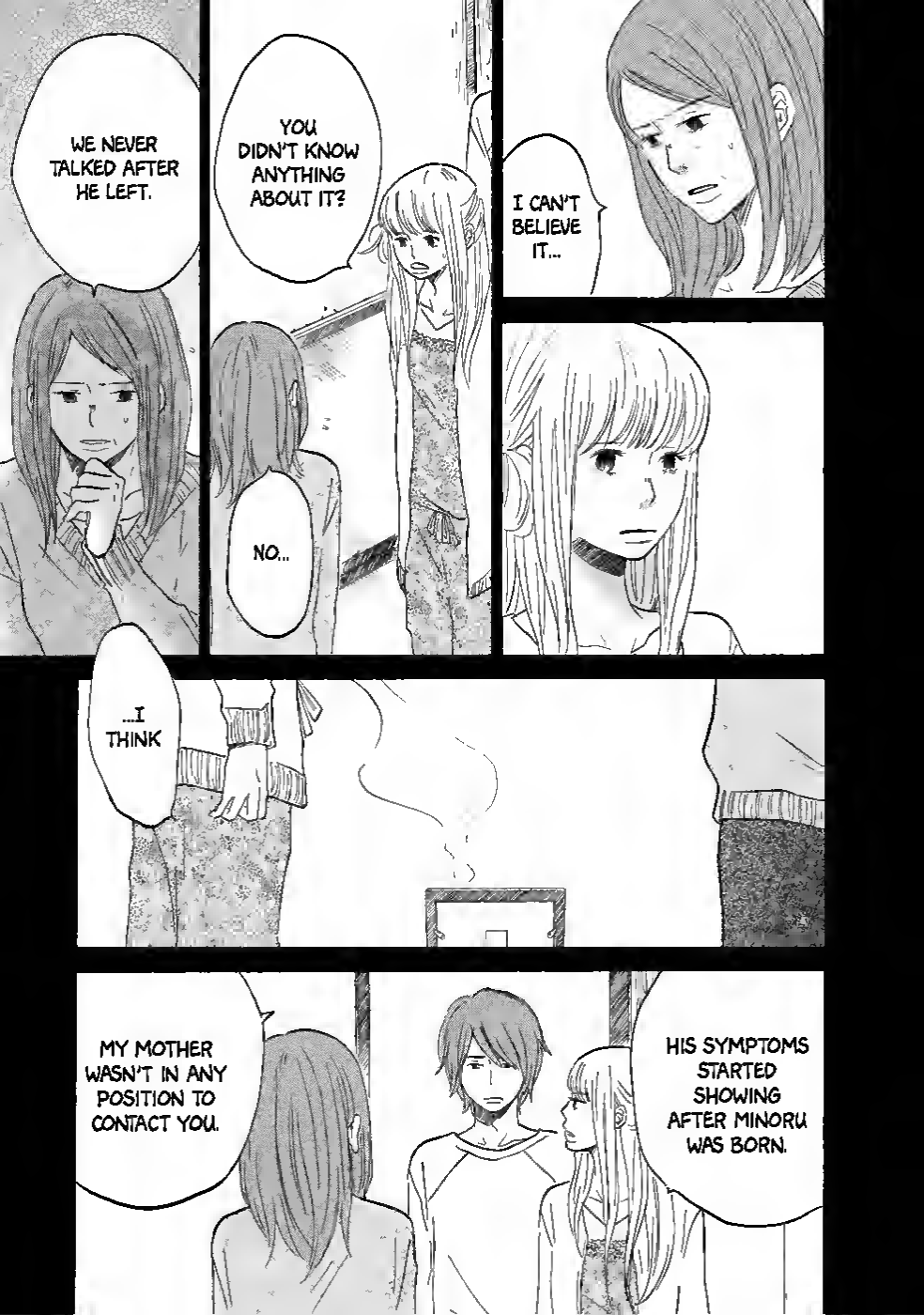
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME. SO WHAT IF SHE'S GOING TO DELIVER?
I'M NOT LEAVING YOU.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WANT TO LEAVE US JUST BECAUSE YOU GOT HER PREGNANT...
...I'M SORRY...
CHIYOKO IS ALSO YOUR CHILD, YOU KNOW?!
CHIYO-KO?
MUUUM~
CLACK


CHIYOKO!
KEN SAID
HE WANTS SOME CHOCO-LATE!
SHE'S ALSO NAMED CHIYOKO, HUH...
CHIYO-KO,
WE'RE HAVING A GROWN-UP TALK RIGHT NOW.
I'LL BRING YOU CHOCO-LATE LATER.
GO PLAY WITH KEN.
OKAY!


ANY-WAY...
YOU DON'T HAVE MY CONSENT.
PLEASE LEAVE.

AFTER THAT,
MITSURU CLOSED THE SHOP AND CAME TO LIVE WITH US.
I DON'T REMEMBER THAT.
IT WAS ONLY A BRIEF MOMENT.
OUR HAPPY DAYS DIDN'T LAST.
BUT
MITSURU WAS IN THE FIRST STAGES OF EARLY-ONSET ALZHEIMER'S... AND MY MOTHER WORKED WHILE CARING FOR HIM.
SHE WOUND UP GETTING SICK, AND PASSED AWAY LAST YEAR.


THAT WAS WHEN YOUR MOTHER CAME AND VISITED US.
DID SHE PASS AWAY?
...YES.
WHERE'S KUBOTA?
...MITSURU HAS EARLY-ONSET ALZHEIMER'S.
WHAT?!
HE'S IN A NURSING HOME AT THE MOMENT.
.....


WE NEVER TALKED AFTER HE LEFT.
YOU DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
NO...
...I THINK
MY MOTHER WASN'T IN ANY POSITION TO CONTACT YOU.
HIS SYMPTOMS STARTED SHOWING AFTER MINORU WAS BORN.

AND... I DOUBT THEY THOUGHT YOU WOULD RESPOND IF THEY REACHED OUT...
.....
I CAME HERE TODAY TO ACCEPT HIS DIVORCE REQUEST.
WHAT ...?
I SHOULD HAVE COME SOONER...
AND
TO ASK HIM TO LOOK AFTER OUR DAUGHTER WHEN I DIE.
WHEN YOU DIE...?

I'M NOT IN ANY POSITION TO ASK YOU FOR FAVOURS.
...I... DON'T HAVE MUCH LONGER TO LIVE.
BUT I HAVE A REQUEST.
"FOR CHIYOKO'S SAKE, PLEASE FILL THE STORE WITH CHOCOLATE
FROM THE RECIPES THAT HE AND CHIYOKO MADE."

Chiyoko's Chocolates
"PLEASE PROTECT THE CHOCOLATE
THAT CHIYOKO LOVES."
"I'M SO SORRY FOR EVERYTHING, CHIYOKO."